

# JUMP



# Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly  
Assessment Newsletter  
August 2003

## Assessment for Learning

Attention: OPI Needs  
Updated Test Coordinator  
Information by  
September 25, 2003

If a different person is test coordinator for your district this year, please notify Lindy Miller at the Office of Public Instruction by September 25. Please provide the name, title, email address, and telephone number to Lindy: lindmiller@state.mt.us or (406) 444-6774.

Test coordinators receive all notifications of testing procedures and training as well as testing materials. They are your liaison with the testing contractors and the Office of Public Instruction. As we continue the Iowa Tests and begin the new criterion-referenced test this school year, it is extremely important that the Office of Public Instruction has correct and up-to-date contact information for your district's test coordinator.

### Assessment Update

A power point presentation with updated assessment information is online for use in your districts <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/03AssessOverview.pdf> If you have any questions about any of the information, please contact Judy Snow, (406) 444-3656 or [jsnow@state.mt.us](mailto:jsnow@state.mt.us)



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent  
Office of Public Instruction  
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[www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us)

### Assessment Calendar Online

The calendar includes current information on important testing dates, deadlines, and training. It is updated frequently. <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/calendar.pdf>

### AYP Regional Meetings

Al McMilin, BJ Granbery, and Nancy Coopersmith presented regional information meetings to explain Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). A power point of that presentation is online: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/TitleI/MTSASEWrkshpAug21.ppt>.

In addition, a video tape is available for checkout from the Office of Public Instruction Resource Center. Contact Raelen Williard, [rwilliard@state.mt.us](mailto:rwilliard@state.mt.us) or (406) 444-2082, to make arrangements.

### Current ACT, SAT, NAEP, and Montana Iowa Test Scores Are Online

ACT: <http://www.act.org/news/data/03/index.html>

SAT: [http://www.collegeboard.com/about/news\\_info/cbsenior/yr2003/html/2003reports.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/about/news_info/cbsenior/yr2003/html/2003reports.html)

NAEP: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states>

Montana Iowa Test Scores: <http://data.opi.state.mt.us/irisreports/>

## Writing Assessment Consortium Proposed

In August, representatives from Great Falls, Helena, Flathead Valley, Small Schools, the Board of Public Education, Office of Public Instruction, and University System met to discuss the feasibility of forming a Writing Assessment Consortium. Participants explored how best to approach the challenge of sustaining a Montana-based writing assessment as an alternate to the ACT and SAT writing assessments, available in 2005.

Current plans call for funding in 2004 from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to print tests, scan scores, and report. OCHE hopes to host a training of trainers who will train scorers at regional sites.

In September, districts and curriculum groups will be invited to join the Montana Writing Assessment Consortium. Information will also be available at MEA and MCEL sessions. Schools that want to participate must respond by October 31, 2003.

For more information, contact Jan Clinard: (406) 444-0652; [jclinard@oche.montana.edu](mailto:jclinard@oche.montana.edu).

## K-16 Montana Mathematics Network Committee Announces September Workshop

### Information from the network:

"The K-16 Montana Mathematics Network is a medium for Montana educators to use mentorship and collaboration to affect and improve the direction of mathematics education in Montana. Workshop participants will create a list of 5 - 10 fundamental skills for each grade level K - 16."

- *When:* September 25-27
- *Where:* Canyon Ferry
- *Contact:* Cole Maxwell—Chair  
[cmaxwell@arlee.k12.mt.us](mailto:cmaxwell@arlee.k12.mt.us)

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## Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS), Phase 2—The Criterion-Referenced Test

### CRT Testing Window Extended

Because of spring break schedules in many districts, the testing window for the criterion-referenced test has been extended from two weeks to three weeks. It will begin a week earlier than originally announced. The new window is March 29 - April 16. We appreciate Measured Progress' flexibility in accommodating Montana needs

### Alternate Assessment

A new alternate assessment for the criterion-referenced test is being developed by Measured Progress, Inc., the Office of Public Instruction, and Montana educators. During the summer, reading, math, and special education teachers convened to begin item and task development for this project. We thank these Montana educators for giving their time to contribute to the alternate assessment.

For information, please contact Gail McGregor at the University of Montana [mcmgregor@ruralinstitute.umt.edu](mailto:mcmgregor@ruralinstitute.umt.edu) or Judy Snow.

## MontCAS, Phase 2 (cont.)

### Preparing for the Criterion-Referenced Test

The criterion-referenced test developed by Measured Progress, Inc., the Montana Office and Public Instruction, and Montana educators will be administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 10 in reading and math March 29 - April 16, 2004. The test will consist of multiple choice and constructed response items.

Since the test is aligned to Montana content standards, continued quality teaching to the standards is the best preparation. In addition, Measured Progress will provide sample items including constructed response items. Those will be available online by November as will the test blueprints.

To see samples from a similar test before November, the Wyoming Comprehensive Assessment System (WYCAS) has sample and released items on its website.

- **Sample Items:** <http://www.measuredprogress.org/wycas/TestResults/TestResults.htm>
- **Released Items:** <http://www.measuredprogress.org/wycas/TestResults/TestResults.htm>

### English Proficiency Exam

During the summer, a group of Montana educators joined other educators from the Mountain States Consortium to begin item development for the English proficiency test. These educators shared their time and expertise. We thank them.

For information, please contact Lynn Hinch [lhinch@state.mt.us](mailto:lhinch@state.mt.us) or Judy Snow.

For further information, contact:  
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### Measured Progress Presents: Examining Student Work

Measured Progress recently sent invitations and registration information to Montana schools for October workshops. The interactive one-day workshops, Examining Student Work, will be presented at five regional sites.

- Space at the workshops has been allocated for one teacher from each school in each district
- 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- A continental breakfast will be served during registration (8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.), and a buffet lunch will be provided
- Districts will be reimbursed for one day's substitute pay (up to \$70 per day).
- A mileage reimbursement of @ 32.5 cents per mile will be available for each driver.
- Renewal units will be available
- A copy of the invitation with a description of the workshop is online <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/assessment/MPInvitation.pdf>
- Registration is online: <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org> or if your school does not have online access, contact Nancy Hall at Measured Progress: 1-888-792-2741
- Registration deadline: Friday, September 19
  - o After the September 19th deadline, if space is available, additional teachers may register.

Date	Site	Location
October 7	Missoula	Holiday Inn
October 7	Billings	Sheraton Hotel
October 8	Bozeman	Holiday Inn
October 9	Glasgow	Cottonwood Inn
October 9	Great Falls	Best Western Hotel